Tariff collection for Dolphin

2132. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tariff collection for Dolphin post-paid mobile services has been given to a foreign company;

(b) if so, the details thereof including mode of selection of this foreign company for tariff collection and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that tariff collection for post-paid Dolphin mobile service of MTNL is being done only through cheque that too in cheque drop-box only and the tariff for Dolphin post-paid service is not accepted by staff in Sanchar Haats and other tariff collection centres; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Deutsche Bank in Delhi and Standard Chartered Bank in Mumbai have been identified by MTNL to collect revenue by way of cheques at their designated drop boxes at standard terms and conditions and as per prescribed criteria. This has been done to suit individual's convenience.

(c) No, Sir. There are various centres available to the Post-paid (Dolphin) customers to make payment of their bills *viz.* various payment counters, Sanchar Haats, Banks, ECS etc. Thus payment can be made both in Cash and Cheque. Further, a large number of outlets of M/s Easy Bill are available for receiving the bills of mobile subscribers.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Increase of telephone network in rural areas

2133. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population using telephones both landlines and mobile phones, private and Government in the country; and